

Lafayette Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee

October 20, 2009



Meeting Agenda

- Stormwater User Fee Ordinance
- Public Outreach and Education
- Policies and Procedures Manual
- Future SWTAC Meetings



Stormwater User Fee Ordinance



The Ordinance: A Funding Mechanism

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit:
 - Est. Joint Shared Cost: \$45,195
 - Individual permit costs also considered
- Operations and Maintenance:
 - 200+ miles of separate sewer system and 60+ miles in the combined sewer area
 - Est. Cost: \$686,425
- Stormwater Capital Projects:
 - Water quality and drainage improvements
 - Est. Cost: \$14,967,907



The Ordinance: Improved services

- Valley Street Improvements
- Elliott Ditch Stream Bank Restoration
- South 30th Street Improvements
- Rain Gardens and Rain Barrel Program
- Armstrong Park Detention Basin Retrofit
- Durkees Run East Improvements
- Vinton Woods Detention Pond
- Orchard Heights Improvements
- Outfall Repairs



The Ordinance: A History

- September 15: First reading
 - Presented Stormwater Ordinance
 - Included Program Study
 - Included Rate Study
 - Not sent to committee
- October 5: Second Reading
 - Public hearing
 - Much Council debate
 - Approved as amended



The Ordinance: The Basics

- Establishes a stormwater user fee for property owners
- Fee based on amount of impervious surface area
 - Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) = 3,200 square feet of impervious surface area
- Fee assessed to
 - Residential (base fee/ 1 ERU) and non-residential parcels (ERUs calculated from total impervious area)
 - Government and tax exempt users pay fee



The Ordinance: As Approved

- Council vote on October 5, 2009, approved ordinance as amended:
 - Billing database to be supported by measured impervious area data
 - Includes alternate rate classes for stormwater NPDES permitted users
 - Phased fee of \$4/ERU – 2010 and \$5/ERU 2011 through 2023
 - User fee sunsets in 2023 (as capital projects are completed)



The Ordinance: Residential User Fee calculation

Base Fee = 1 ERU or
\$4 per month*

**\$4 is the 2010 rate. From 2011-2023, the
user fee rate will be \$5 per month.*



The Ordinance: Non-residential User Fee Calculation

$$\frac{\text{Measured Area of Impervious Surface in Sq. Ft.}}{3,200 \text{ Sq. Ft. (1-ERU)}} \times \$4^*$$

= Monthly Fee

**\$4 is the 2010 rate. From 2011-2023, the
user fee rate will be \$5 per month.*



Non-residential Alternate Rate Classes

- NPDES permitted stormwater discharges directly to watercourse inside city: \$2.50 per ERU per month
- NPDES permitted stormwater discharges directly to watercourse outside of city: \$1.54 per ERU per month



The Ordinance: Building Master Billing File

- Measuring impervious surface area on non-residential parcels (6-7 weeks remaining)
- Building parcel owner accounts
- Collecting documentation for alternate rate class qualification
- Preparing to issue statements April/May 2010



Questions? Comments



Public Outreach and Education

Communicating the benefits of the
stormwater user fee and
capital program



Why Public Outreach and Education?

- An informed and knowledgeable community is crucial to the success of a stormwater management program.
- Public education and outreach generates:
 - Greater support: Increased understanding of need for stormwater program
 - Increased compliance: Awareness of personal and corporate responsibilities in the community



Emphasis on Program Benefits

- It's the right thing to do.
 - Improving water quality in Wabash River
 - Improving the health of our community
- Improving drainage and flood control
- Addressing crumbling infrastructure and expanding existing sewer system
- Compliance with state and federal regulations
- Funding through dedicated revenue source



Public Outreach and Permit Requirements

- To satisfy this Minimum Control Measure, the operator of a regulated MS4 needs to:
“Implement a public education program to distribute educational materials to the community, or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impacts of storm water discharges on local water bodies and the steps that can be taken to reduce storm water pollution.”



Outreach Prior to Council Vote

- Advisory committee
- Top stormwater customers
- Environmental organizations
- Local boards
- Local commissions
- Local authorities
- Executive city staff
- Chamber of Commerce
- Chamber infrastructure committee
- Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association
- Nonprofit organizations
- Common Council
- General public (via Web site and media)
- Local print and broadcast media

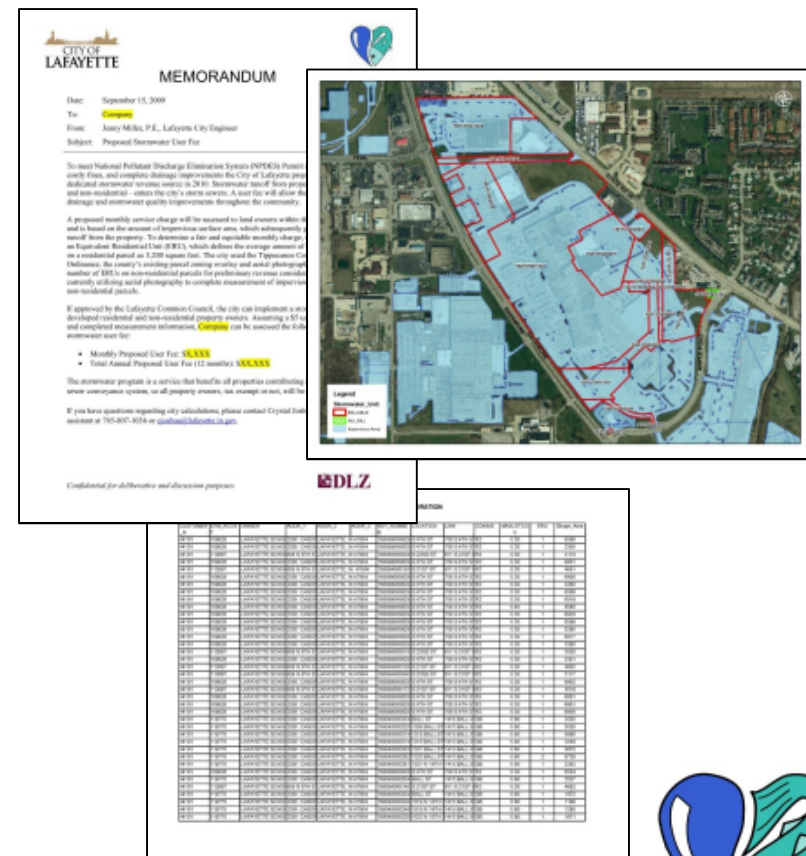


CITY OF LAFAYETTE

WET WEATHER PROGRAM

Top Customer Outreach Materials

- Memo stating proposed user fee
- Parcel list and map
- Stormwater background information
- Stormwater frequently asked questions
- Project fact sheets
- Bar graph: User fees in comparable cities



Ongoing Outreach

- Churches: Letter to parcel owners
- Alternate rate classes: Letter describing qualifications
- Neighborhood associations:
 - Vinton Neighborhood Association
 - Others are being considered and scheduled
- General public
 - Water/sewer bill inserts
 - Information on Web site
 - Community events with diverse audiences
- Media: Response to inquiries



Summary

- Public education is an NPDES Permit requirement
- Also important to the continued success of the Lafayette Stormwater Program
- Conduct outreach...
 - To develop awareness of and support for capital improvements
 - To emphasize individual responsibility to protect our waterways for future generations



Questions? Comments



Stormwater Policies and Procedures Manual



Policies and Procedures Manual Contents

- Manual will outline policies and procedures for operating inside the articles of the Stormwater User Fee including:
 - Measurement of impervious surface
 - Appeal process
 - Clarification of definitions
 - Qualification for alternate rate classes
 - Application of rate and payment program



Policies and Procedures Manual Contents

- Measurement of Impervious Surface Area
 - How it is measured
 - Illustrations included
 - Define impervious surface area
 - Details on updating measurements
 - How new data is collected
 - Random sampling is done
 - Check against updated aerial photography



Policies and Procedures Manual Contents

- Appeal process
 - Owner's responsibilities
 - Stay current with the account
 - Supply owner data (measurements, ownership records)
 - City's responsibilities
 - Provide mapping data if applicable
 - Provide fair and impartial review of the owner data
 - Board involvement
 - Make final resolution in disputed cases



Policies and Procedures Manual Contents

- Clarification of definitions and processes
 - Define pertinent terms and processes in a general format as necessary
 - Remove ambiguity



Policies and Procedures Manual Contents

- Qualification for alternate rate classes
 - Owner's responsibilities:
 - Submit copies of permit(s) required to qualify
 - Submit copies of regulatory reports
 - Define area of parcels that qualify
 - City's responsibilities:
 - Contact potential users
 - Define program with owner
 - Review submitted materials with owner
 - Join public notice list(s)



Policies and Procedures Manual Contents

- Application of rate and payment
 - Describe and illustrate how rate is applied to the four rate classes
 - Define how statements are to be issued and payment is expected



Questions? Comments



Future Meetings

- Next meeting: January 2010
- Meetings to be held quarterly
- Provide input on...
 - Stormwater user fee—billing process
 - Policies and procedures manual
 - Outreach/Communication program for 2010

